metro
NEW YORK • Thursday, December 5, 2013

MOB WIVES™

ANGELA "BIG ANG" RAIOLA
Staten Island, NY

• Ang is the niece of the late Salvatore "Sally Dogs" Lombardi — a former captain of the Genovese crime family who died in prison.

• The Genovese crime family is considered the "Ivy League" of organized crime.

• Ang runs the Drunken Monkey Bar & Grill located on Staten Island and recently opened the Miami Monkey in Miami.

DRITA D'AVANZO
Staten Island, NY

• Drita's husband, Lee D'Avanzo, recently moved back in with her after serving time in prison for bank robbery — for the second time.

• She comes from a strict Albanian household and defied her parents by marrying an Italian man.

• As a kid Drita wasn't allowed to cry, and she had to do hundreds of push-ups and sit-ups a day to meet her father's high standards.

RENEE GRAZIANO
Staten Island, NY

• Renee's father is Anthony Graziano, a high-ranking member of the Bonanno crime family. He is currently finishing out his sentence in a halfway house after his most recent charge of extortion, which came on the heels of his release in 2011 after serving 11 years on a prior case for tax evasion, racketeering and conspiracy to murder.

• Her ex-husband, Hector, is a mob associate turned FBI informant who taped the conversations that led to her father's arrest in 2012.

• Renee has visited over 80 prisons and written hundreds of letters to comfort the many friends she has "on the inside."

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THIS IS THE STUFF STOCKINGS WERE MADE FOR. PAGES 21-25

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Thursday, December 5, 2013 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

THE BIGGEST LOSER

Battle of the basement. The Knicks and Nets meet tonight for the first time this season — and neither is where they planned to be. PAGE 33

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1 NEWS

De Blasio announces first deputy mayor pick

Appointed. City Hall veteran and NYU Langone Vice President Anthony Shorris will be first deputy mayor.

Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio named Anthony Shorris, vice president of NYU Langone Medical Center, as first deputy mayor in his administration.

Shorris, who has also served in the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the city's Office of Management and Budget, will be the second-highest ranking official in City Hall, de Blasio said Wednesday.

"I don't think I know anyone who has this range of experience and achievement and will be able to work with all elements of the government seamlessly," de Blasio said.

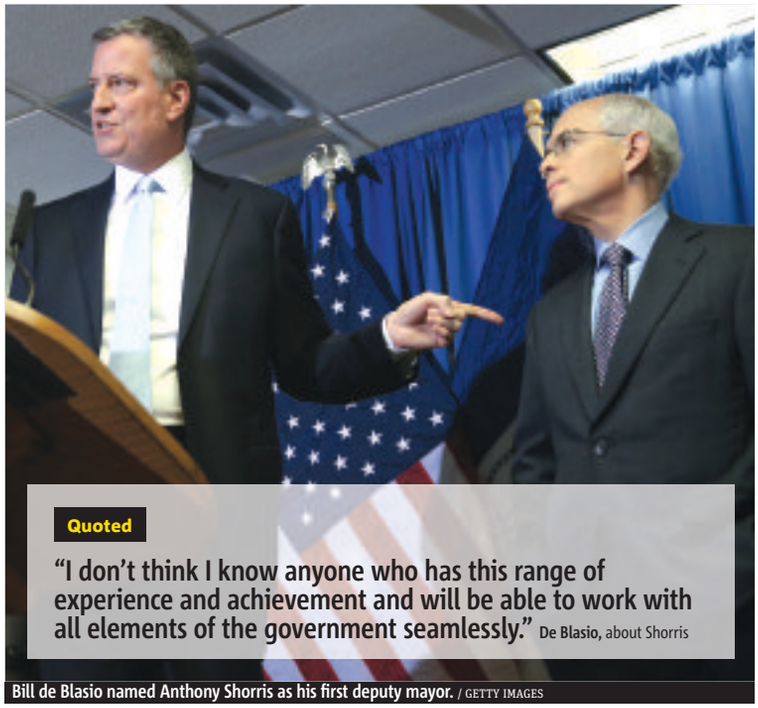
Shorris began his City Hall service in 1978 during the Koch administration. He will oversee all city agencies and administrators apart from the still-unnamed police commissioner and schools chancellor.

Shorris highlighted the importance of de Blasio's signature policies, such as universal pre-kindergarten.

"This is our moment, and I am profoundly excited to have a chance to support this mayor and his team," Shorris said.

Dominic Williams, chief of staff in the Public Advocate's Office, will be Shorris' chief of staff. Longtime aide Emma Wolfe will be de Blasio's director of intergovernmental affairs.

ANNA SANDERS and **DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN**



Quoted

"I don't think I know anyone who has this range of experience and achievement and will be able to work with all elements of the government seamlessly." De Blasio, about Shorris

Bill de Blasio named Anthony Shorris as his first deputy mayor. / GETTY IMAGES

How to join a community board

Transportation Alternatives is known for its work with street safety. / GETTY IMAGES

Traffic safety advocacy group Transportation Alternatives will host a series of events citywide to help New Yorkers learn how to get involved with their local community board.

The first meeting will take place tonight at 7 at the Brooklyn YWCA in Boerum Hill.

The group generally functions as an advocate for "livable streets" — issues regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety, as well as mass transit like the city's subway and bus systems.

With this initiative, however, it plans to function more as a good government organization, encouraging greater civic participation.

Transportation Alternative leaders say they have increasingly been approached by New Yorkers curious about how to get on their local community board.

"We realized that there isn't really anyone out there educating New Yorkers about how the process works," said Brian Zumhagen, Transportation Alternative's communications manager. **DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN**

Top 3

Trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Two-year-old basketball star 'Trick Shot Titus' beats Channing Tatum, Bradley Cooper'

2 'VIDEO: Guys surprise homeless man with gourmet Thanksgiving meal'

3 'SAT scores rise for New York City students'

Quoted

"Each person we chose to speak champions the idea that we are better together."

Stephanie Najor, organizer, TedxBrooklyn

Legislation

Council holds e-cig hearing

The City Council held a hearing Wednesday to decide whether to include electronic cigarettes in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's landmark Smoke-Free Air Act.

A proposed bill would ban the liquid nicotine vaporizers from public places where smoking regular cigarettes is prohibited.

Supporters argue the devices haven't been adequately studied and that publicly smoking them presents the wrong message to impressionable children.

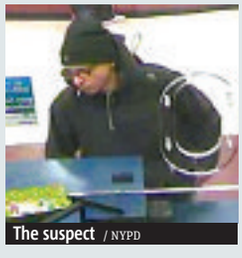
Protestors smoked e-cigarettes around City Hall, arguing the devices help them quit smoking and that the ban proposal goes too far. **ANNA SANDERS**

Crime

Cops hunt man for Queens bank robberies

Police are hoping to identify a man wanted in a recent string of Queens bank robberies.

The suspect first robbed a Flushing bank on Oct. 25, police said, passing a note demanding cash before fleeing with an undetermined amount of money.



The suspect / NYPD

One month later, on Nov. 25, the man attempted the same stunt at a Sunnyside bank but fled with no money.

Later that same day, he successfully stole about $3,000 from an Astoria bank, police said.

Cops describe the suspect as a white male last seen wearing a black ski cap and jacket. **ANNA SANDERS**

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East Harlem hosts the Three Kings Day Parade every winter. / GETTY IMAGES

City highlights East Harlem as a destination

Tourism. NYC & Company have chosen East Harlem as the neighborhood that it will promote during the holidays.

The city is pushing East Harlem, also known as El Barrio, as a tourism destination this season.

"In time for the busy holiday season, we are pleased to highlight East Harlem/El Barrio, a neighborhood full of hidden gems that are unique to its Italian and Hispanic histories," said George Fertitta, CEO of NYC & Company, the city's official tourism marketing partnership organization.

East Harlem is home to El Museo del Barrio, one of the city's leading Latino cultural institutions, and National Black Theatre, the city's longest-operating black theater company.

Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito, who represents the area, said El Barrio provides a dynamic blend of delicious food and historical landmarks.

The upper Manhattan neighborhood is located from East 96th Street to East 142nd Street between Fifth Avenue and the East River.

For more information on the neighborhood, visit NYCGo.com.

ANNA SANDERS
anna.sanders@metro.us

Culture

"El Barrio is a mecca of Latino arts, music and culture, making our community an exciting and unique destination."
Mark-Viverito

City bus

Woman pleads guilty to assault in dog dispute

Steangeli Medina, 19, has been convicted of assaulting an MTA bus driver two years ago after the driver told her she could not board with her dog. She will be sentenced to six months in jail, according to the Bronx district attorney. **LAURA SHIN**

Toy drive

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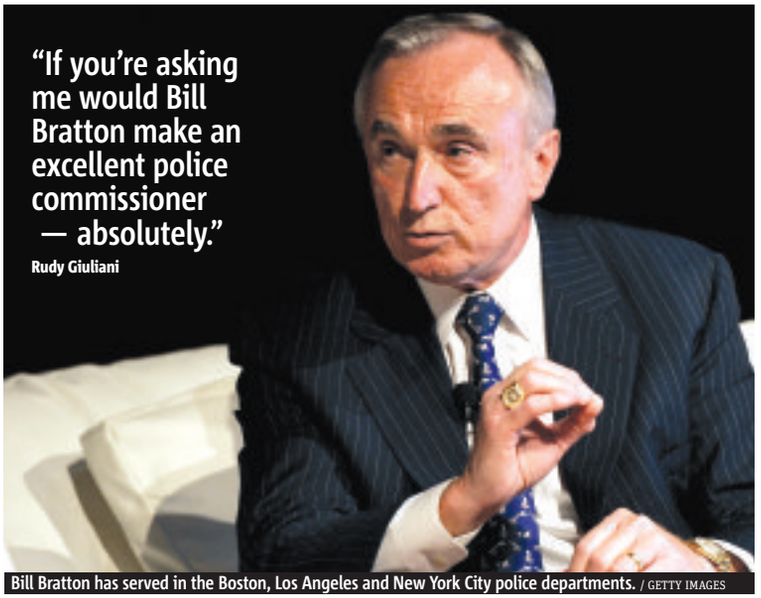
Join Metro in giving to a local child in need this holiday season. Here's how: Look for the Tony's Metro Magic logo on our website, www.metro.us. One click on the logo will take you to a Wish List we have set up via a secure link on ToysRUs.com. Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested for kids, with more being added daily. Simply select the toys you want and purchase them. That's it! Selecting only the toys on our Wish List ensures that all the gifts will be shipped to our offices. If you donate, email Metro at charity@metro.us letting us know what you gave, and we'll print a "thank you" in the paper.
METRO

Former top cop is back in spotlight



Bill Bratton has served in the Boston, Los Angeles and New York City police departments. / GETTY IMAGES

Back on the beat?

Bill Bratton is on de Blasio's short list for NYPD police commissioner.

New police commissioner

Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio is expected to make his pick for New York Police Commissioner soon.

- De Blasio has positioned himself as the polar opposite of Rudy Giuliani, who backed his opponent, Joe Lhota, in the mayoral race.
- Another top contender for the job is the current Chief of Department Philip Banks III. The Chief of Department is the highest-ranking uniformed member of the NYPD.

As rumors escalate that Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio will make his pick for New York City's top cop this week, former Police Commissioner Bill Bratton is being listed as a top contender.

Bratton served as the New York City Police Commissioner from 1994 to 1996 and became the first person to ever be both the New York Police Commissioner and Los Angeles Police Commissioner. He served as the L.A. Police Commissioner from 2002 to 2009.

Al O'Leary, spokesman for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, an organization that represents police officers unions, worked under Bratton when he ran the New York City Transit Police.

O'Leary described Bratton as a "very innovative thinker."

"He's got a laser focus on accomplishing things, and he'll implement an idea and then evaluate it constantly — and the minute it doesn't appear to be doing the job, he'll look for another idea," O'Leary said.

Sgt. Ed Mullins, head of the sergeants union assigned to the 67th precinct, has been on the force for 32 years. He said Bratton revolutionized the department.

"Everything changed under Bratton, and for the better," Mullins recalled.

Bratton, he said, would regularly "engage uniformed cops on the street," asking for ideas and input.

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who at one point had a contentious relationship with Bratton, had nothing but nice things to say about him at the 13th annual Thanksgiving Parade Breakfast, hosted by the National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation last week.

"He's an exceptional law enforcement leader, so I can see why he'd be considered," Giuliani said.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tchloakian@metro.us

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Union booted from NTSB investigation

Rules. A commuter rail union was removed from the NTSB probe after commenting on the investigation Tuesday.

The NTSB said that the derailed train crash wasn't caused by mechanical failure. / GETTY IMAGES

After an official said that the engineer operating Sunday's derailed Metro-North train was dozing before the fatal crash, the National Transportation Safety Board removed the rail union from its investigation.

General Chairman of the Association of Commuter Rail Employees Anthony Bottalico said the engineer "basically nodded [off]" just before the crash.

After Bottalico's comments, the union was relieved of its cooperation with the NTSB.

"While we value the technical expertise that groups like ACRE can provide during the course of an investigation, it is counterproductive when an organization breaches the party agreement and publicly interprets or comments on investigation information," NTSB Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman said.

When reached by phone Wednesday, the union said it would not comment on its removal so long as there's an ongoing investigation.

Analysis

Union booted following comments

ACRE head Anthony Bottalico said Tuesday that the train's engineer nodded off moments before derailing on the Hudson Line Sunday.

An investigation by the NTSB revealed the train was going 82 mph before entering a 30 mph curve. Four died and dozens were injured when the train derailed.

"He had the equivalent of what we all have when we drive a car — that is, you sometimes have a momentary nod," Bottalico said.

Parties involved in NTSB investigations are required to maintain confidentiality.

Confidentiality

"Our rules exist to avoid the prospect of any party to an NTSB investigation offering its slant on the circumstances of the accident."

Deborah A.P. Hersman
NTSB Chairman

ANNA SANDERS
anna.sanders@metro.us

Bloomberg touts graduation rate

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced on Wednesday record high numbers in the city's graduation rate.

The figures are preliminary, but the mayor and Department of Education Chancellor Dennis Walcott were eager to share what they said is proof of their success over the past decade.

According to Bloomberg, 66 percent of students graduated in 2013. In 2005, when the state began releasing New York City graduation rates, that figure was 46.5 percent.

Legacy

66

The percentage of high school students that graduated in 2013

Of those graduates in 2013, 46 percent were deemed to be college-ready.

In 2005, just 32 percent were considered college-ready. The dropout rate has also been halved, with a 7 percent decline since last year alone.

On Tuesday, Bloomberg and Walcott visited a high school in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn to announce record AP, SAT and PSAT participation and performance among New York City high school students.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

Graduation ceremony
GETTY IMAGES

MTA .info

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Stranded in Florida

Dozens of whales beached in Everglades

Dozens of whales were beached in the Everglades National Park in southwest Florida, and rangers and wildlife workers were trying to keep the animals safe until the tide rose enough to allow them to return to sea, park spokeswoman Linda Friar said.

Of those on shore, four had died and workers had managed to get six back into deeper water, Friar told the press.

The animals were believed to be short-finned pilot whales, typically found in deep water in tropical and temperate areas.

Rangers and workers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, were trying to keep the whales wet and stable until they were once again able to swim out, Friar said.

REUTERS

Whales

30

About 30 whales were stranded in shallow water, and 10 more were on the shore, in a remote part of the Everglades near the Gulf of Mexico.

Quoted

"Pilot whales are common stranders. They tend to do this."

Friar

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Newtown 911 tapes reveal calm, anguish

Kyra Murray holds a photo with victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School during a press conference. / GETTY IMAGES

Recordings. Seven files were released, two of which were identical.

A teacher calmly explains she has been shot in the foot. Another woman, sounding anguished, pleads for help. A custodian relays information from officers at the scene to a police operator.

There is also the booming echo of gunshots.

Officials in Newtown, Conn., on Wednesday released audio recordings of emergency 911 phone calls from the Connecticut school shooting that killed 20 children and six educators almost a year ago, revealing raw emotion in the voice of the callers.

The audio files may be the final pieces of evidence released about the tragedy that rocked the country on Dec. 14, 2012, when gunman Adam Lanza, 20, shot dead his mother at home and then went to Sandy Hook Elementary school, where he massacred 26 people before killing himself.

Town officials initially tried to prevent the release of the recordings. The state Freedom of Information Commission ordered calls placed from inside the elementary school to be aired.

Late last month, a judge ruled the town must comply with the commission's order, and Newtown officials have since dropped their appeal.

First Selectman Patricia Llodra recently reversed her long-standing position, saying the tapes should be released in full in order to prevent partial leaks.

REUTERS

911 recording

"They're still running, they're still shooting. ... Sandy Hook school, please!"

A woman caller
sounding increasingly distraught

Site. HealthCare.gov enrollment totals 29K Sunday and Monday

About 29,000 people signed up for health insurance through the troubled HealthCare.gov website on Sunday and Monday, a number that is higher than the site's first month of operation in October, sources familiar with the numbers said on Wednesday.

In October, only about 26,000 signed up through the glitch-prone website, and intensive efforts are being conducted to work out the problems with HealthCare.gov.

The information is being reviewed, but it looks like the total will be 29,000 for enrollment in the federal exchange for the first two days of the site's relaunch from midnight Sunday to midnight Monday, the sources said.

REUTERS

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Assad's forces

Rocket fire kills 17 in Syrian city of Aleppo

Rockets fired into a government-controlled district of Aleppo killed at least 17 people in the northern Syrian city on Wednesday, state media and a monitoring group said.

Photographs from the incident in Meridien and Furqan, two adjacent neighborhoods in western Aleppo, showed pools of blood on the pavements and a crater in the road where one of the rockets appeared to have landed.The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the casualties included nine civilians and five members of President Bashar al-Assad's security forces. It put the death toll at 18, one more than reported by the state news agency. REUTERS

Bomb material

Mexican police find lost truck with radioactive material

Mexican police have found a truck they suspect was stolen by common thieves. It carried a dangerous radioactive medical material that the United Nations said could provide an ingredient for a "dirty bomb," a government official said.

The truck was found Wednesday close to where it was stolen outside of Mexico City, said the official, who asked not to be identified. He could not confirm whether the cargo was aboard.

The truck was stolen Monday while it was taking cobalt-60 from a hospital in the northern city of Tijuana to a radioactive waste-storage center, Mexican officials and the U.N. agency said earlier. REUTERS

Hezbollah blames Israel for commander killed in Beirut

Mourners carry the coffin of Hassan Hawlo al-Lakiss, one of the Hezbollah's top commanders, during his funeral in the city of Baalbek. / GETTY IMAGES

Funeral. Hundreds of mourners followed his coffin through the streets of the Bekaa Valley town.

A Hezbollah commander who fought in Syria's civil war was shot dead outside his home in Lebanon on Wednesday in a killing that the militant Shi'ite Muslim group blamed on Israel.

Hassan al-Laqqis was shot in the head from close range by a silenced gun as he arrived home at around midnight in the Hadath district of Beirut, a source close to Hezbollah said.

Israel, which fought a 34-day war with Hezbollah in 2006, denied any role in the shooting and hinted the motive may have been Hezbollah's military support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in his war with Sunni Muslim rebels.

A previously unknown group, Ahrar al-Sunna Baalbek brigade, claimed responsibility for the attack in a message on Twitter. The claim could not be verified, but the name of the purported group suggested Lebanese Sunni Muslim connections. REUTERS

Quoted

"The Israeli enemy tried to get to our martyr brother several times, in more than one location, but these attempts failed until this repugnant assassination."

Militant Shi'ite Muslim group

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Our Solidarity Pink Ribbon Necklace is the universal symbol of strength, courage and unwavering support.

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. But I've always found that the worst of times brings out the best in all of us. The day Carol got her cancer diagnosis, she began the fight for her life. And her daughters were right there with her. They shuttled her to appointments, cooked meals, and generally took care of things so their mother could focus on treatment.

One year later, Carol is in remission and continues to fight. But these days, that fight isn't for herself, it's for everybody else. Because while she's recovering, there are millions of others who aren't. They struggle through treatment and the overwhelming rollercoaster of good days, bad days and worse. These women are wives, mothers and daughters who need our united and unconditional support.

It's easy to feel helpless and hopeless. It's harder to do something. But doing something—anything—is what makes a difference. Carol told me once that it was the small things that made the biggest impact. Unexpected visitors. Homemade desserts. Even the occasional glimpse of a tiny pink ribbon that showed her that she was not alone in this fight.

"It's powerful knowing that other people, even strangers, are pulling for you," said Carol. "It doesn't seem like a big deal, but that's the kind of encouragement that turns victims into survivors."

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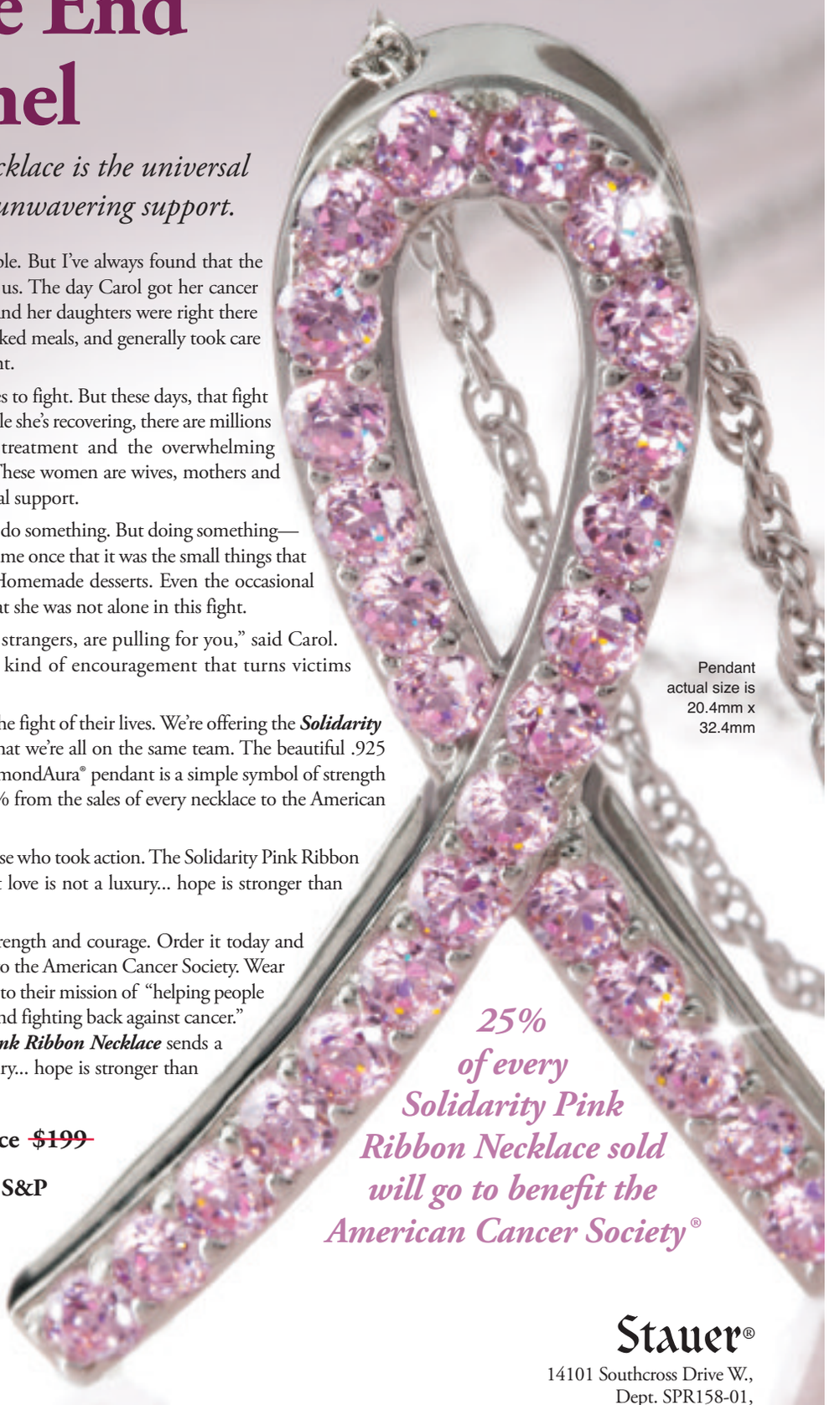

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Legal. Court questions Google defense against Oracle over Android

A U.S. appeals court on Wednesday closely questioned Google's claim that Oracle does not enjoy copyright protection over certain parts of the Java programming language.

The issue, under review by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, is being closely watched by software developers in Silicon Valley.

Google's Android operating system is the world's best-selling smartphone platform. The Java programming language was created by Sun Microsystems, which Oracle acquired in 2010. Oracle sued Google later that year, claiming that Google had improperly incorporated parts of Java into Android.

Oracle President and Chief Financial Officer Safra Catz, who took the stand during trial last year, appeared in court on Wednesday to hear the appellate arguments.

At trial in San Francisco last year, Oracle claimed Google's Android tramples on its rights to the structure of 37 Java APIs. Oracle sought roughly $1 billion on its copyright claims. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"This would apply to every possible computer program out there."
Judge Kathleen O'Malley
Federal Circuit Judge

Phone with Google's Android operating system / GETTY IMAGES

China rocket debris hits homes, experts say buy insurance

Watch out. Rocket launch goes according to plan, except for the debris it scattered in the Chinese countryside.

Two houses in China were damaged by falling pieces of a rocket launched on Monday, prompting calls for an insurance scheme to cover future damage from the country's ambitious space program, the China Daily newspaper reported on Wednesday.

No casualties were reported after the successful launch of China's first moon rover, Chang'e-3, from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern province of Sichuan, but debris from the launch hurtled into a village in neighboring Hunan province.

A photograph in the newspaper showed a farmer standing by a desk-sized chunk of the rocket that had apparently smashed through his wooden roof.

"Suppose the rocket wreckage hit a person; what would the authorities do?" the paper quoted Ren Zili, a professor of insurance laws at Beihang University, as saying. **REUTERS**

This picture shows a man posing with debris from the rocket and part of the damage it caused to the roof in a house in Suining, central China's Hunan province. / GETTY IMAGES

Damage

$1.8K

One person whose home was damaged received 10,800 yuan ($1,800) as compensation and the other received 5,200 yuan.

Identity technology

Fingerprint sees touch ID going mainstream for smartphones

Fingerprint Cards is aiming to sell its identity technology to most of the world's biggest smartphone makers, which are likely to follow Apple in offering touch recognition for mobiles from next year.

Apple's September launch of the iPhone 5S was the first smartphone with a fingerprint identity touch sensor, provided by AuthenTec.

Sweden's Fingerprint hopes to sell its own touch sensors to other companies like Samsung, LG Electronics and Huawei.

Fingerprint already has contracts to supply its cheaper "swipe" fingerprint technology to Japan's Fujitsu, South Korea's Pantech and China's Konka. **REUTERS**

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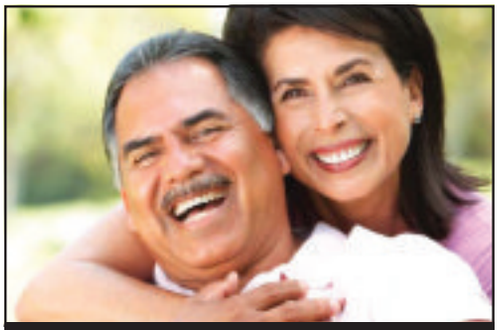

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US teens chasing scarce jobs boosted by state programs

Teens are competing with older workers unable to retire for low-skill jobs in retail and services. / GETTY IMAGES

Skills. Organizations are using public and private money to mentor teens.

Eduardo Bueno landed a job as a hotel bell man in New York this year after finishing a youth employment program that let the 18-year-old practice interviewing and overcome a nervous stutter.

With his first full-time position, Bueno said he can help his mother financially and plans to start taking college classes. "My main dream is to get my bachelor's in hospitality management and become a general manager someday," said Bueno, who is from New York's Lower East Side.

Like all businesses in New York state, the Holiday Inn where Bueno works is eligible to receive a tax credit for students between ages 16 and 19 on the payroll. Approved earlier this year to help offset a minimum-wage increase, the policy is designed to spur hiring of teenagers and prevent further decline in their employment levels.
BLOOMBERG

Quoted

"This has been the worst decade for teenage employment in our history. ... The variations by gender, race and income are massively high."
Andrew Sum
Economics professor at Northeastern University in Boston

Unemployment

22.2%
Nationwide, unemployment for those ages 16 to 19 was 22.2 percent in October.

7.3%
That is compared with 7.3 percent for the overall population, according to Labor Department data.

37.7%
The jobless rate for black male teenagers, at 37.7 percent, is more than double that of white females.

36.2%
The number of employed 16- to 19-year-olds in October 2003 was 36.2 percent.

Harvard survey

Most youth unhappy with Obama's job performance

Young Americans are unhappy with virtually every major thing President Barack Obama has done since he was re-elected, but they would still vote for him today, according to the results of a Harvard University survey.

The national poll by Harvard's Institute of Politics of more than 2,000 people aged 18 through 29 is intended to provide insight into the political views of the youngest U.S. voters.

More than 50 percent of people in the survey, taken between Oct. 30 and Nov. 11, said they disapproved of how the Democratic president handled key issues in his second term.
REUTERS

Rough road

Obama says income disparity is a defining issue of our era

President Barack Obama, setting out a theme that he'll pursue in the final years of his presidency, said growing income disparity in the U.S. is the "defining challenge or our time" and Washington must confront it.

Upward mobility for middle-income Americans has been stymied by economic changes and government policy, Obama said.

"The basic bargain at the heart of our economy has frayed," he said in an address in Washington today that echoed a speech he gave two years ago in Osawatomie, Kan., that set the stage for his 2012 re-election race. Increasing inequality "challenges the very essence of who we are as a people."
BLOOMBERG

Chimp rights case reaches court

Monkey business. The Nonhuman Rights Project files a lawsuit on behalf of captive chimpanzees.

As animal intelligence becomes better understood, treatment of primates has improved in many countries — for example, people will see fewer monkeys in circuses. But attorney Steven Wise, president of the Nonhuman Rights Project, is going further by seeking to obtain the first "legal person" status for chimps in a New York court.

The NRP have wanted such legal rights for animals for many years. Why make this the first court case?
We have been working on the problem generally and decided New York State was the right location, and these chimpanzees were the right subjects. We found that two chimps had died in a few weeks in a roadside zoo, and so we filed on behalf of the four surviving chimps. This would change their legal status from "thing" to being with capacity for rights such as bodily liberty.

Are you going to be laughed out of court?
We believe in our argument. But as no one has made it, the first judge won't have confronted the issue and we won't win the lower court. We want a good record to then take to the appellate court, and then higher courts. I've been working on this case for 28 years, and we have seriously prepared since 2007, so I believe we have a reasonable chance.

Is the public on your side?
Yes, we commissioned a recent poll and most Americans across the political spectrum believed that chimps should have the rights of a human child. Some believed they already did. Most outside of the exploitation business instinctively agree.

How far do you want chimpanzee rights to go? And for other animals?
Chimps have autonomy — that should be sufficient to have them declared legal persons and have their liberty. Other rights remain to be seen on a case-by-case basis. I'm not saying they should have the vote or education, but they should be left alone and unharmed. That protection requires the status of a person with the capacity for rights, and beyond that we can argue case by case. We just want to open the argument and breach the divide. We are using a 1772 case of a slave using common law to achieve freedom as a blueprint.

A chimpanzee in the Budongo Trail at Edinburgh Zoo holds a chimp-proof camera. / GETTY IMAGES

The case

'Legal personhood'

A U.S. animal rights group on Monday filed what it said is the first lawsuit seeking to establish the "legal personhood" of chimpanzees.

NRP asked a New York state court to declare a 26-year-old chimp named Tommy "a cognitively complex autonomous legal person with the fundamental legal right not to be imprisoned."

The lawsuit seeks a declaration that Tommy's "detention" in a "small, dank, cement cage in a cavernous dark shed" in central New York is unlawful and demands his immediate release to a primate sanctuary.

REUTERS

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CULTURE

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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The (real) king and queen of Versailles

A lovely little place for a wedding, don't you think?

This just in: Kim and Kanye are going to do a low-key, family-only wedding with little to no fuss or expense. Just kidding! The guy released a song this year titled "I Am a God," so obviously he's going to want to do it big, and that song has the line "in a French-ass restaurant, hurry up with my damn croissant!" so he obviously has a fondness for the French, which can only mean they're getting married at the Palace of Versailles!

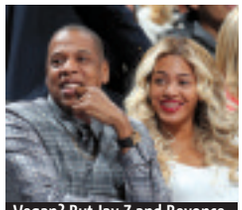
Ah yes, the once humble homestead of Louis XIV will possibly host the magical union of Kanye and Kim, reports Us Weekly. "Kanye has never been married and wants a big [wedding]," a source told the mag. "They are not working with a budget," the source continued.

No budget? Kanye? Kim? Considering their "budget" for house slippers is probably more than my yearly salary, I can believe it.

Jay Z and Beyonce are now vegan

Is this the influence of Gwyneth? Morrissey? Jay Z and Beyonce are officially going vegan until Christmas, the rapper announced on his Life and Times blog. "Psychologists have said it takes 21 days to make or break a habit. On the 22nd day, you've found the way," he wrote.

"One day before my 44th birthday, I will embark on a 22 Days challenge to go completely vegan — or as I prefer to call it, plant-based." He also confirmed that Beyonce "is also joining me" on his "spiritual and physical cleanse." "I don't know what happens after Christmas," he admitted. "A semi-vegan, a full plant-based diet? Or just a spiritual and physical challenge? We'll see."



Vegan? But Jay-Z and Beyonce used to not be annoying!

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Cindy Crawford: Past and present

Cindy Crawford posed next to an old (yet saucy!) photo of herself at Art Miami on Tuesday in Miami, Fla.

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Big Ang's big ... truths

TV. This 'Mob Wife' is a certified boss.

In reality TV, everything is larger than life — big drama, big personalities and, well, big boobs. "Mob Wives" (now in its fourth season) star Angela "Big Ang" Raiola fits that bill, and hers are bigger than most. However, if you ask her, she actually doesn't care for the drama. Booze (she just came out with her own line of wines), good times and plastic surgery, however, are a different story. We got Ang and "Mob Wives" producer Jenn Graziano (sister of cast member Renee Graziano) on the line to talk mafia life.

Have you had any backlash? When "Jersey Shore" came out, Jersey people were furious.
Raiola: Honestly, I think everyone in Staten Island likes us. Maybe there are a couple of haters, but no one important.

I don't know much about the mob, but I understand it's very secretive. How can you put this stuff on TV?
Raiola: I asked my family if it was OK with them, and they said if I could make money and have a good life, then go for it.
Graziano: We had some opposition from the "Italian community." In the beginning, there were a lot of skeptics, you know a lot of people in the lifestyle that were mad, thinking it was going to be very intrusive into their world. Even my own father wasn't happy about it, but I think, after time, we proved to everyone that it's really about the women, how a certain lifestyle affects them, not giving away secrets.

What's the craziest thing a fan has done to you or said to you?
Raiola: Well, just now, when I was shopping they jumped out of their car and they had their 2-year-old baby behind the wheel as it was running. I was like, "Excuse me, your 2-year-old is behind the wheel and your car is running!" and she said, "Oh she'll be all right." That just happened 10 minutes ago. That kind of freaked me out.

Do you get weird fan mail?
Raiola: I get stuff from jail, like guys asking me if I can buy them a car when they get out of there.

You're very, um, recognizable. Is it hard to do normal things?
Raiola: Yes, it's very hard. Like when I just got to Florida, I was wearing a hat and overalls, thinking no one would recognize me, but there they go, jumping out of cars into traffic!

Q&A

Big Ang on life

If you had to sum up Big Ang's philosophy on life in a single sentence, what would it be?
Raiola: Enjoy every day to the fullest because you never know when it ends.
Graziano: She also says, "If you're not here for a good time..."
Raiola: Oh, yeah, yeah! "You're not here for a long time, just a good time." I have that tattooed on my back.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
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ANGELA "BIG ANG" RAIOLA AND JENN GRAZIANO, INSET
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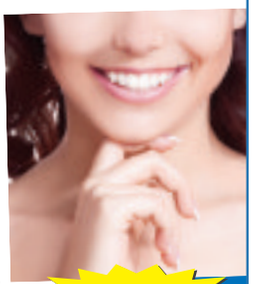

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Joel and Ethan talk "Inside Llewyn Davis" and a possible "Barton Fink" sequel.

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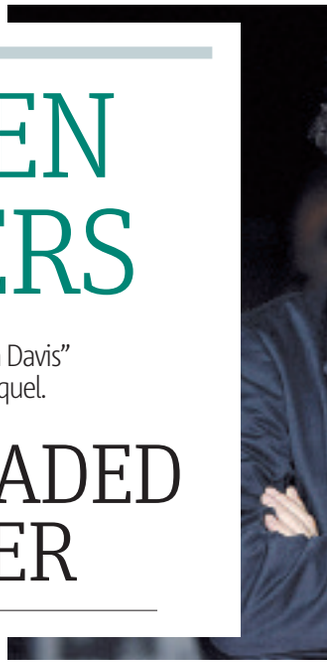

With "Inside Llewyn Davis," legendary directors Joel and Ethan Coen hit up the New York City of the mid-20th century, a place and time they haven't visited since "The Hudsucker Proxy" in 1994. They're not big fans of repeating themselves — though they still might have a "Barton Fink" sequel up their sleeves.

You've said "Inside Llewyn Davis" might be your last film actually shot on film.
Joel Coen: No, yeah, we don't know. It's sort of an evolving thing because we don't know what we're doing next. We don't know where the technology's going to be at. It's possible, I guess. Certainly that's the way the business is going. People are still shooting on film, though. It's kind of our preference.

It seems like film is becoming a luxury choice for shooting.
JC: You know, honestly, people say that, but I don't think it's more expensive, because I think that there's a rule in show business that any savings that could be realized from new technology, the business conspires to absorb those things and make it cost just as much as the old way of doing things. I don't actually think it's more economical. There may be other advantages, though.

It's interesting that "The Hudsucker Proxy" took place in the same city maybe a year or two before this one.
Ethan Coen: Yeah, it's true! Our other New York movie. We've written another one that takes place in 1962 in New York.
JC: But that's true, "Hudsucker" was around the same time. But [its hero] wasn't going down to the Village. We did have a juice and coffee bar [scene], though. [Laughs]

They're very different films, stylistically, but it's fun to think about laying your films out chronologically and watching them.
JC: That's kind of interesting. So what would be the earliest? I guess "True Grit," then "Miller's Crossing." Then "O Brother, [Where Art Thou]," then …
EC: "Barton Fink," which was 1941.

How much does the decade in which a story takes place factor into your consideration for a project?
EC: It goes into the identity of the project. It's not something you kind of consider in isolation from it. You're thinking about a story and its

GETTY IMAGES FOR BFI

characters, who occupy a particular setting. So the setting is a time and place. It's all one big mush.

JC: Yeah, it's a big mush. But it's important. It's part of what stimulates you in terms of thinking about the story.

EC: It's only the most obvious way to make the point, but you could say it about each of them. "Miller's Crossing," they're characters, kind of gangsters, who would only be there then. The characters wouldn't make sense in another setting.

And with folk singers in New York, there's a limited time frame.

EC: Yes. [Laughs]

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Writer's block

'Barton Fink 2'?

JC: People are always asking us if we would ever do a sequel to one of our movies, and the only one that has ever been interesting to us is actually doing a movie called "Old Fink," which would be [Barton] Fink during 1967, the Summer of Love in San Francisco, when he's older and a professor at Berkeley.

EC: We're waiting for John Turturro to get old enough. You don't want to do one of those make-up jobs, you know?

That has to be a sensitive conversation.

JC: No, no, he's into [it]. He's completely into it. I think he'd be fine with it.

EC: Yeah, [Fink] is a horrible person. He, like, sleeps with coeds. He wears a turtleneck and is trying to be hip. We're going to recruit John Goodman as well. It's in development.

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Mike Kelley exhibit flips ordinary items into art

Museum. MoMA retrospective takes on social critique and self-criticism.

"Deodorized Central Mass with Satellites" is on display. / PROVIDED

The "Mike Kelley" retrospective at MoMA PS1 is the largest-ever exhibition of the eclectic artist's work. It occupies the entire museum, with 200 works representing Kelley's career from the 1970s to 2012, the year of his untimely death.

At once familiar and strange, Kelley's pieces push past conventions. With dark humor, he takes on class, pop culture, childhood, repressed memories and contradictions within power structures.

Kelley shines when he combines media. He communicates through drawing, printmaking, painting, assemblage, sculpture, photography, film, sound and performance.

To that end, visiting "Mike Kelley" is an immersive experience. At times humorous, perverse and bizarre, Kelley's art keeps you guessing.

Here are the highlights:

• **"Deodorized Central Mass with Satellites" (1991/1999)** is a must-see, featuring plush toys sewn into motley, kaleidoscopic cloud formations descending from the ceiling.

• **"Wayne, MI (US), 1954 - South Pasadena, CA (US), 2012 Switching Marys" (2004–2005)** is the exhibit's most consuming installation. Kelley filmed creepy, not-quite-right re-creations of dated high-school yearbook photos, which are projected amid sculptures assembled from the props used in the videos.

• **"Kandor Project" (1999-2011)** is named for the fictional birthplace of Superman, canonically shrunken and preserved in glass. In Kelley's sculptures — accompanied by video projection — encased minerals whirl about their glass vitrines like so many snow globes.

If you go

'Mike Kelley'

Through Feb. 2, 2014
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16 Stocking stuffers $10 and under

Shop. Set the bar for gift-giving this year with these cool-yet-affordable finds.

Sweet little somethings

2 Sometimes you don't want an app to do everything. **Gone to Market Pad, $10, www.shopterrain.com**

3 Foods on a stick are just more fun. These treats are made with high-quality ingredients and come in a variety of flavors, including peppermint, spiced ginger and peanut butter. **Ticket Chocolate Hot Chocolate on a Stick, $4-$5.50 each, www.theticketkitchen.com**

4 Inspired by 18th-century toiletries, this triple-milled soap is vegetable-based and includes good-for-you ingredients such as olive oil and oatmeal — meaning it's perfect for all kinds of picky people in your life. **Izola Maritime Soap, $9, www.izola.com**

5 Clay: It never gets old for kids. **Seedling Lil' Modelling Clay set, $2, usa.alexandalexa.com**

6 Compulsively checking the recipes on his tablet while whipping up dinner just got easier with this handy tool, which is one part mixing spoon and one part stylus. **iSpoon Kitchen Stylus, $7, www.umbra.com**

7 Did you get the memo? The holidays are all about sparkle! **Essie Good as Gold nail polish, $8.50, www.essie.com**

8 Topshop's eyeliner will look as good on her as it does floating around in her makeup bag. **Topshop Kohl in Coal, $8, www.topshop.com**

9 Your boss already has a Starbucks gift card. Gift him or her one of these (biodegradable!) certificates instead, which allows the recipient to donate to a worthy cause of his or her choice. **GlobalGiving Gift Cards, starting at $10, www.globalgiving.org**

Continued on page 22

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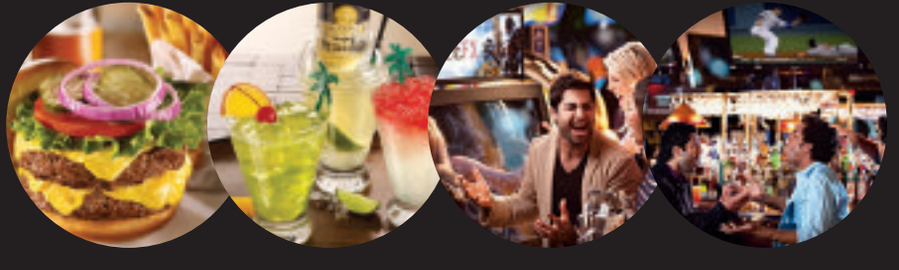

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Stocking stuffers, continued

10 We've all got that friend who lives by Susan Miller's every word. **Zodiac Notepad, $10, www.anthropologie.com**

11 Lure your little sister to lend a hand in the kitchen. **Kuhn Rikon Colori Polka Dot Paring Knife, $10, www.amazon.com**

12 This easy-to-transport puzzle will keep the kiddies busy for hours and is less guilt-inducing than letting them play Candy Crush on your smartphone. **On the Go Travel Puzzle, $5.95, www.landofnod.com**

13 Salt cellar, jewelry holder, thumb-tack wrangler — the options for these adorable mini bowls are endless. Bonus: The bottoms are dipped in plastic, making them slip-proof and sturdy. **Wind and Willow Home bowl, $8 each, www.windandwillowhome.com.**

14 This sleek screwdriver will please both the handyman and aesthete. **Restoration Hardware Handy 12-Bit Tool, $9.49, www.restorationhardware.com**

15 Convert your mom against plastic bags. The handy, durable tote folds into a 5-inch pouch, too. **BAGGU bag, $8, www.fivestripes.com**

16 A bottle of mini sparkling wine is perfect for moms, co-workers, best friends and anyone who could use a two-minute holiday time-out. **VOGA's Baby Sparkling, $5.99, www.vogaltalia.com**

TINA CHADHA

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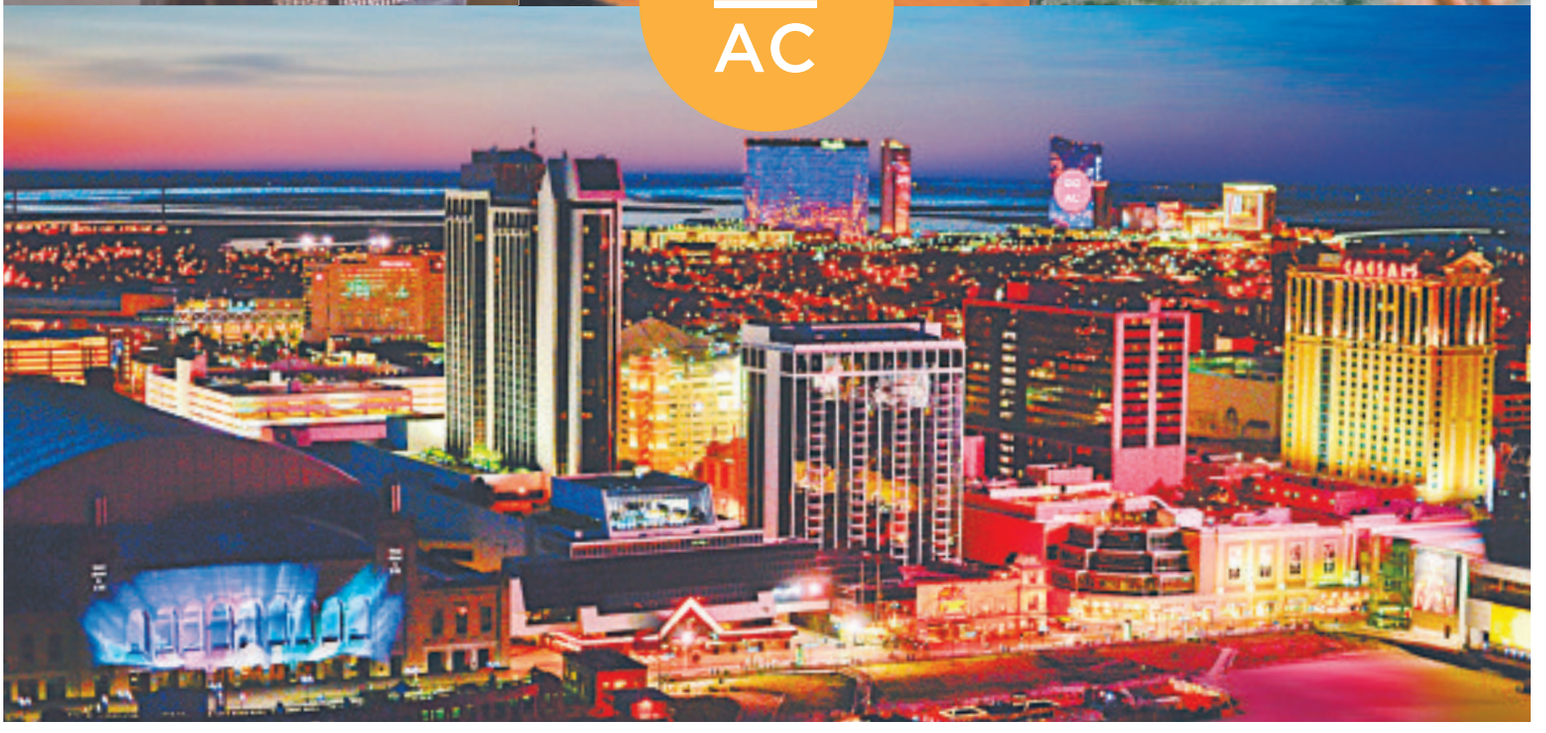

The sweetest gifts

DIY. Rosie Daykin teaches us how to make tasty treats into pretty presents.

Rosie Daykin knows a thing or two about presentation. The former interior designer took her decorating skills to the kitchen, opening the charming, pink-and-pistachio-colored Vancouver bakery Butter Baked Goods in 2007.

Thanks to her new cookbook, "Butter Baked Goods," you can create her recipes of comfort and joy for your own friends and family. Daykin shares her tips for giving baked goods as gorgeous gifts this holiday season. The first step to making these presents, well, presentable: "Don't give somebody Christmas baking in a disposable Ziploc!" she says.

Perfect packaging

"The gift is the baking — and the vehicle you put the baking on," says Daykin.

But pretty presentations don't have to mean elaborate. "I like to keep my packaging clean," she says. "I don't want a tin that has pictures of bells on it. You get more impact with the elegant simplicity of an all-red tin with a thick green, satin ribbon."

Daykin recommends different containers for different treats. For a Christmas cookie sampler, she uses tiered bamboo steamers, which are typically available at the dollar store. "As you take the tiers apart, there are cookies on every level," she says. "You can buy a single one with a lid, or a set where they stack."

For treats like the Peanut Butter and Jam Cups, below, Daykin suggests Chinese takeout food containers. We love colored boxes, like the pink one pictured, from Etsy.

Set a theme

"Pick a theme," Daykin suggests for gift giving. "What am I working around? It keeps you kind of focused.

"Maybe I'm going to give you Christmas morning breakfast," she says. "Make the scones. Use a cello bag. That goes into a basket wrapped in a tea towel with some jam, butter and some tea."

Tough cookies

We know it's the thought that counts, but your creations should be sturdy enough to make it to their destination. Daykin reminds us to opt for more durable and transportable confections.

She notes that loaves are easy to transport. "Do up a chocolate pistachio loaf or a banana chocolate loaf in a cello bag with a nice ribbon and little tag. Now that's a nice gift," she says.

How adorable is Daykin's shop? / JANIS NICOLAY

Go crazy

One of Daykin's favorite tried-and-true gifts is a classic Christmas cookie sampler. She credits this to her grandmother's holiday tradition of sending different cookies in coffee cans via Greyhound bus. "I start at the beginning of December and make a different cookie or treat every night for a couple of weeks. I box them all and package them in the freezer. Come Christmastime, I create these gift boxes for people with at least 14 different kinds of treats — a sampling of cookies."

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"This book spoke to me on so many levels having dealt with my father, his addiction, and his absence from my life. This should be required reading. I think it's that good." O.Terrell
www.GotLemons.net

Recipe. Peanut Butter and Jam Cups

Ingredients

Peanut Butter and Jam Cups

MAKES: 24 PB&J cups

- 2 mini muffin pans lined with mini paper liners, small piping bag fitted with a small round tip
- Peanut butter buttercream
- 2 pounds dark chocolate (about 4 cups chocolate chips)
- ½ cup really good raspberry jam
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 drop red food coloring
- 12 salted peanuts, shelled and halved

For the complete recipe, visit us online at www.metro.us.
JANIS NICOLAY

Peanut Butter Buttercream

MAKES: 4 cups, enough for 1 (7-inch) cake or 18 cupcakes

- 1½ cups smooth peanut butter
- ½ cup butter, room temperature
- 4 cups icing sugar, sifted
- 1 cup heavy cream

Gifts for the design blog-loving hostess

Showing up with beautiful bodega flowers is fine and all, but you know two other people will have the same idea. You need something special for your friend, who, after all, ordered half of Etsy for this party.

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

PLUS

Gifts for the host

1 Fancy cheese, meet your match. The festive gold is perfect for this time of year. **Bamboo Cheese Knives, $34, www.cwonder.com**

2 Move over, everything else on the kitchen counter. **Giusti 8 Year Balsamic Vinegar** is perfect for salads, shellfish and holding stems long after the gourmet vinegar is done. **$18, www.deandeluca.com**

3 No respectable hostess uses paper. **Patch Design Studio's Organic Feather Napkins, $56 for four, www.patchdesignstudio.com**

4 You might not stick around and pitch in with the cleanup, but with Caldrea's gorgeous gift set, your contribution is noted. **Ceramic Sink Set in Vanilla Quince Santal, $32, www.caldrea.com**

5 Tomorrow morning's eggs and toast served on this happy, sustainably sourced birch tray will hopefully ease the pain of those new wine stains. **Jonna Saarinen Breakfast Tray, $34, www.fab.com**

6 Caramel toffee crumbles, fluffy marshmallows with Madagascar bourbon vanilla and a touch of sea salt are just some of the ingredients in these decadent treats. Don't expect her to put them out. **Vosges Haut-Chocolat Caramel Marshmallows, $13 for four, www.vosgeschocolate.com.**

7 Her dreams of whipping up Pinterest-worthy Champagne cocktails just came true. **Chambre de Sucre Color Sugar Balls, $13.95, www.chambredesucre.com**

8 What's better than bubbly? Pink bubbly. **Poema Cava Brut Rosado, $12.99, wine stores nationwide**

Funky Brown Chick

TWANNA A. HINES, M.S.

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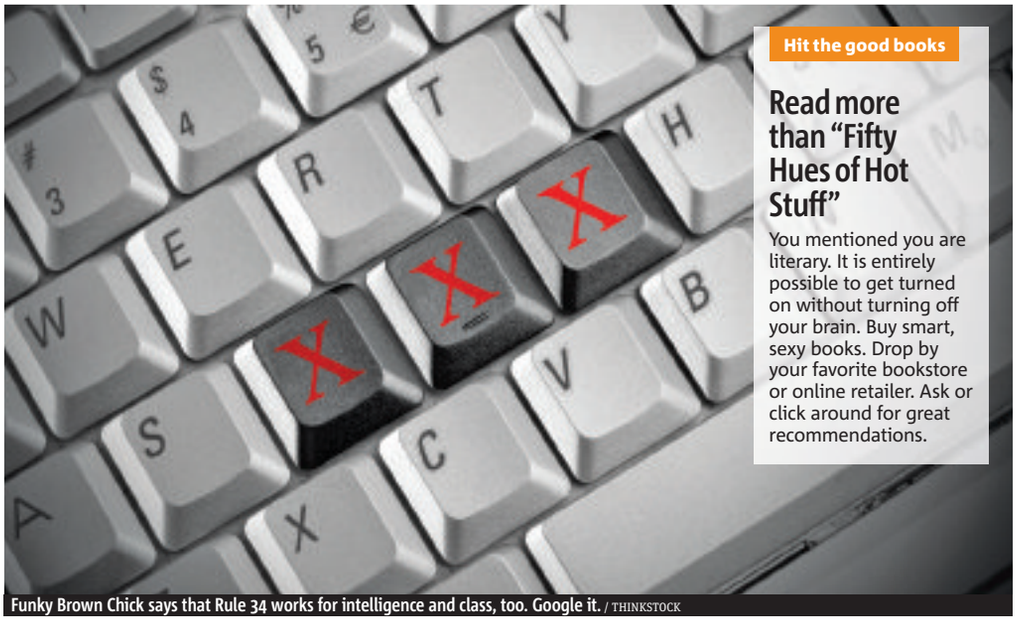


Hit the good books

Read more than "Fifty Hues of Hot Stuff"

You mentioned you are literary. It is entirely possible to get turned on without turning off your brain. Buy smart, sexy books. Drop by your favorite bookstore or online retailer. Ask or click around for great recommendations.

Funky Brown Chick says that Rule 34 works for intelligence and class, too. Google it. / THINKSTOCK

WHERE CAN YOU FIND CLASSY PORN? FUNKY BROWN CHICK KNOWS

Do you have arousal tools or techniques for single people? Most porn is so, so yucky. Sort of like becoming a drug addict, it leaves me feeling dirty and disrespected. I know there's some good stuff out there, and my literary brain is hungry for good stuff. How does a woman of class and intelligence go about stretching sexual boundaries solo?

Rock on with your class and intelligence! Religion, parents, society and others sometimes teach us that sex is inherently tacky and vulgar. We are all sexual beings. Pursuing fulfillment in that arena is a worthwhile endeavor for anyone seeking a healthy, well-balanced life.

I love that you used the words "tools" and "techniques." Too often we blindly seek change in our lives without defining what needs to be different. Your head is in the right place on this one. You want to stretch your sexual boundaries, and you're looking for a specific plan of action to achieve that goal.

This is my advice:

Remember skin-to-skin contact is vital

Perhaps you need more than sex. Touch triggers neurochemical responses in your body. If you live alone, it is possible to go days or weeks without anyone touching you. At the office, it would be weird if a co-worker caressed you. And although some friends hugs or kiss each time they meet, many don't. Seek and give more platonic touches. Don't feel guilty, dirty or ashamed if you crave more physicality in general.

Watch smart porn

Smut has come a long way, baby! Somewhat less likely to be yucky, racist or sexist, feminist porn hit mainstream stride with Cindy Gallop's "Make Love Not Porn," The Good For Her Feminist Porn Awards, Autostraddle's excellent queer porn list and Violet's Blue Smart Porn collection providing good jumping-off points. I call "Rule 34" on class and intelligence. (Google it!)

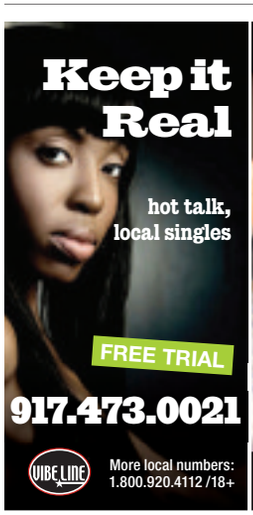
Buy accoutrements

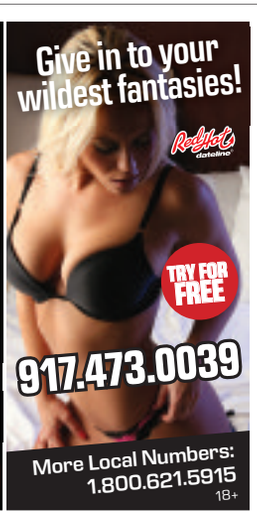
Remember: Solo does not mean sexless. Either use your hands or purchase toys for self-stimulation. Kiki de Montparnasse, Lelo and others offer high-end delights for more discerning customers.

More than sex

It's time for a reality check: Find out if you're lonely

I get it. Sex feels good. Yet, it is important to determine if you are using pleasure to mask other emotions. Feeling lonely is not about the number of people around you, it is about not having one's needs met. If you achieve greater sexual fulfillment and you still feel like something is missing, try rounding out other areas of your life as well.





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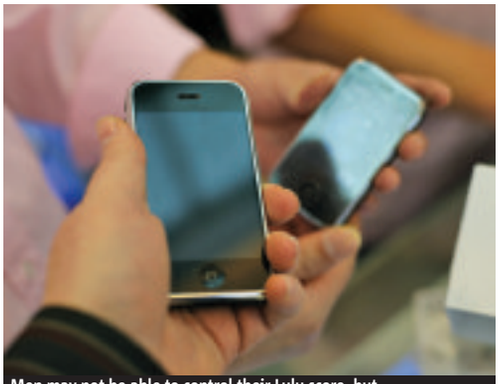
Like it or not, the Lulu App is here. So instead of mentally masturbating over whether the app is good or bad, I think it's more useful to discuss how to use it. If you're a woman who's going to consult it pre-dates, or a man who's checking your ratings, keep these things in mind:

Ladies, the ratings aren't objective. How many times has a woman offered to set you up with her amazing son, adorable cousin or single nephew? It's always someone "you would just LOVE!" And if you've ever taken up one of those offers you know, generally the guy isn't quite as great as promised. This is all to say that ratings from family members and close friends are biased. And of course, ratings from any exes are just as biased in the opposite direction.



Men may not be able to control their Lulu score, but everyone can always control their behavior. / FLICKR

See more at www.metro.us

Guys, it takes two to tango. A bad sex score can mean as much about compatibility or her performance as it does about yours.

Ladies, before posting something nasty, just tell him off. If a guy treated you horribly you shouldn't just take it. But posting a rant about him isn't necessarily the best way to ensure that he treats other girls better. Your best shot at affecting his future dating behavior is taking the high road and talking to him directly about why his actions were insensitive. It's best to tell him to his face, rather than try to get revenge behind his back.

Guys, a bad score on Lulu isn't the end of the world. A girl reading something bad about you may slow her down. But if she really likes you, it's unlikely to stop her.

Ladies, guys can act in a range of ways. As hundreds of guys told me when I was conducting research for my book — "Are All Guys Assholes?" — guys are capable of acting immaturely and horrible to a girl they don't care about, but they can also be amazing boyfriends to a girl they do value. One girl's bad review doesn't necessarily mean the guy is a bad seed.

Men and women alike: We're all out there looking for that special someone (or most of us, anyway). But while we're on that search, we owe it to each other to treat one another with respect — whether in person, online or on Lulu.

The Hookup

AMBER MADISON

AMBERMADISON ONLINE.COM

Amber Madison is a Manhattan-based relationship expert and dating coach. She is the author of 'Are All Guys Assholes?' for which she traveled the country, spoke to over 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter@ambermadi.

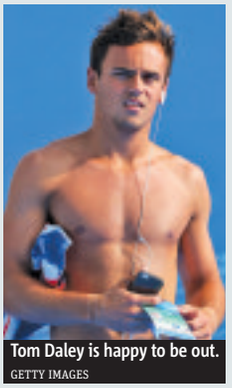
Pride

Daley thanks fans for support after coming out

British Olympic diver Tom Daley thanked his fans for their support and received the backing of British Swimming after announcing on Monday that he was dating a man.

The 19-year-old Daley, who won bronze in the men's 10 meter platform at last year's London Games, tweeted: "Overwhelmed by all the support! Means the world! Thanks so much guys".

Daley had earlier made the announcement on YouTube, saying in a video: "Come spring this year, my life changed massively when I met someone and they make me feel so happy, so safe and everything just feels great — and that someone is a guy.



Tom Daley is happy to be out. GETTY IMAGES

"It did take me by surprise a little bit. It was always in the back of my head that something like that could happen, but it wasn't until spring this year that something just clicked, it felt right. ... And my whole world just changed there and then.

"Of course I still fancy girls, but I mean right now I'm dating a guy and I couldn't be happier."

British Swimming chief David Sparkes said: "Everybody within British Swimming supports Tom and his announcement. It's a very private matter and doesn't change the very positive way in which we will continue to work with Tom.

"Tom is one of the world's leading athletes and has achieved success at every level of competition, including Olympic bronze and world gold." REUTERS

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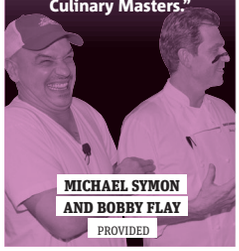
Savor Borgata

Street eats

Chefs Michael Symon and Bobby Flay joined a list of culinary all-stars at Savor Borgata, an annual food-themed weekend event hosted by the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City last month.

This year's theme was street food, prompting chefs to prepare gourmet twists on popular hand-held fare. Guests feasted on grab-and-go treats like crispy-skin Peking duck in steamed buns, pulled pork sliders with Shacha sauce and New Mexican-style chicken skewers with green chile vinegar dipping sauce. The event also featured cooking lessons, demonstrations and a dinner with courses prepared by participating chefs, called "Taste of Five Culinary Masters."



MICHAEL SYMON AND BOBBY FLAY
PROVIDED

Top chefs dish on their ideal last meals

See more at www.metro.us

Indulgence. It's a bit morbid, yes, but admit it: You've thought about it too.

We've all imagined our last meal — what would we eat if we knew we'd never eat again? Would it be a hodgepodge of our favorite foods, or one simple, perfect dish? Not surprisingly, chefs in particular have put a lot of consideration into this scenario.

Metro caught up with celebrity chefs and real-life pals Michael Symon and Bobby Flay at Savor Borgata, a weekend-long foodie event in Atlantic City last month. Symon, known for his restaurants in the Midwest, has two options for his last meal — but ultimately, he'd prefer to stick to his roots.

"I've thought long and hard about this," Symon says. "If my mother outlived me, which is very possible, I would have my mother's lasagna, no doubt about it."

His backup plan includes specialties from fellow well-known chefs.

"I figure I would have a lot of pull with the chefs, so I'd fly in Marc Vetri to make me a pasta, Jonathan Waxman would make me a roast chicken,

Bobby Flay doesn't want fancy "bulls—" for his final plate. / PROVIDED

MICHAEL SYMON
PROVIDED

SARABETH LEVINE
PROVIDED

Bobby [Flay] would make me a shrimp tamale and Paul Kahan would do a braised pork dish for me — and then I would die," Symon muses. "To drink? I would have something bourbon-based. I love two parts bourbon, one part ginger beer and a squeeze of lemon."

Flay's last meal was far simpler and one he says he'd prefer to cook himself, since he knows best how he likes it.

"So easy. It's a cheeseburger with double American cheese and an ice cream sundae — period," Flay says. "It's not foie gras and caviar, none of that bulls—."

His drink of choice falls in line with Symon's selection: "A glass of bourbon. Woodford Reserve Bourbon, right out of Kentucky," Flay says.

Betony executive chef Bryce Shuman has been quite busy after a stellar New York Times review. Impressing patrons is stressful enough, so for this, he would rather stick with simple comfort food. (After all, a last meal should be comforting.)

"My last meal would definitely be a dinner plate of Carolina BBQ from B's — smokey, fatty, chopped pork with that spicy vinegar sauce," Shuman says, adding that the plate would also have. "cole slaw, green beans or chopped collards, Brunswick stew and crunchy corn sticks. I'd need a bottle of Texas Pete on the side and an extra large cup of sweet tea. Sweet tea just makes life sweeter."

Sarabeth Levine, of Sarabeth's Bakery fame, would go with a breakfast of champions.

"Fresh tomato and a Hass avocado salad from California followed by eggs Benedict with English muffins and Mimi Sheraton's potato pancakes with sour cream and homemade applesauce," she tells us. "For dessert, homemade vanilla ice cream with a big spoonful of the Sarabeth's Apricot Orange Marmalade, which is what it all started with."

Her final wish?

"I want to be embalmed with creme anglais," she says.

One more

JOE ISIDORI
PROVIDED

Joe Isidori

New York-based chef Joe Isidori, who went head-to-head with Flay on "Iron Chef" in 2012, is another who sticks to his roots. Isidori, whose Brooklyn restaurant Arthur on Smith was named after his late chef father, would choose a throwback meal for his last supper — one he has shared with his family many times.

"I would have to say spaghetti pomodoro. It is a dish so simple, but so damn good," Isidori says. "This dish transports me right back to my childhood while I was working with my father in his kitchen."

CASSANDRA GARRISON
cassandra.garrison@metro.us

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Cocktail of the Week

New York City seems to be gearing up for a chilly winter, which is bad news if you're a snowbird without an escape plan this season. But there is hope in the form of Flying South for the Winter. This dark-and-sweet cocktail features Cabo Diablo, a new 70-proof tequila from the Cab Wabo line — and it's infused with coffee liqueur. The flavor notes are enticing, with cocoa and vanilla lacing that familiar blue agave taste. But don't be fooled by its devilish disguise: Cabo Diablo works in many easy home recipes, and you can add it to your shelf for about $22.99. Try this one to help combat your cold-weather blues.

Flying South for the Winter

Created by Jaime Felber, Boulton & Watt

Ingredients:
1.5 oz. Cabo Diablo
.75 oz. Campari
1.5 oz. Pineapple juice
.5 oz. Fresh lime juice
.5 oz. Simple syrup

Instructions:
Shake together and serve on the rocks.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

Toying with tradition in Mexican cuisine

Hot chef. La Cenita's Akhtar Nawab brings different ingredients to the kitchen.

Visit Nawab at La Cenita (409 W. 14th St., 646-289-3930).
ANTOINETTE BRUNO, STARCHEFS

Akhtar Nawab is a Southern boy (from Kentucky), with Indian roots, cooking Mexican food at the cavernous, buzzy La Cenita in the Meatpacking District. After stints in French and Mediterranean kitchens, Nawab grew interested in Mexican cuisine after recalling the delicious meals his colleagues in the kitchen would make to feed themselves and the restaurant for the staff meal.

You've said that you wanted to step outside the borders of Mexican dishes at La Cenita. What did you want to change?
We have a handful of things that are nontraditional and contemporary and modern, but for us, the process was really just to make sure there's a connection. The lamb barbacoa has a lot of traditional ingredients in it, but we approached it a little differently; it has some great cavolo nero [black leaf kale]. ... I think it's finding a balance of something that's exciting and different, rooted with some real authenticity.

So do you play more with ingredients rather than technique?
Yeah, I would say that. We're trying to make sure we're using the best quality ingredients at the same time as treating them with the same kind of simplicity and straightforwardness that Mexican cooking really is. It's actually a very simple kind of cuisine, but it has a lot of long cooking times, and there's a lot of care involved.

With a lot of long cooking times, how do you keep on top of how busy your restaurant is?
It's really tough. The braised meats, I find, are always better the next day. Just like if you make a stew or chili or something at home, a lot of times those things are better the next day, when they've had the opportunity to sit. And I think it's the same for the short ribs and the braised lamb, for example, and the chicken tinga — usually things that [take] very long, three to five hours cooking.

Where do you like to eat when you're not working? Are you sick of Mexican food?
I wouldn't say I'm sick of it, but I do want to try other things. I'm crazy about Vietnamese food; I'd like to go to Vietnam someday. It really is very, very exciting to me. I'm always crazy for Indian food, but nothing's as good as my mother's cooking ... so I make it for my daughter and me at home. Those are the things that I always go for. I always love sushi, but everyone does.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

Q&A

It's a toss-up

What's your favorite item on the menu?
I think it's a tie between the octopus and the lamb barbacoa. The octopus is with red and black quinoa and some tomato marmalata and preserved lemon. The lamb barbacoa just feels very deeply satisfying. It's rich and it's flavorful, but it's also kind of clean and simple. It has some cumin; the cumin makes it exciting for me, and the vinegar. The chipotle onion and the lamb and all that stuff — when it's cooked together, it's this great, rich, delicious but simple and satisfying kind of thing.

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The first "legal" beer cases arrived at the White House at the end of Prohibition, which was decided by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. / ©APIC

Toast to Repeal Day with a drink — or 31

Cheers! Why pub-crawl when you can get all your cocktails in one room?

Based on the number of bars in our great city, many people seem to be happy Prohibition was overturned. The booze ban was officially scrapped 80 years ago today, and to celebrate that (and the holiday season) the Village Voice is throwing a big ol' party.

"We plan to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Prohibition's end by hosting an array of distilleries that have opened throughout New York City and beyond since then and saluting how far we've come with a drink," says Christina Pettit of the Village Voice. Their Holiday Spirits unlimited tasting event will feature 31 spirits. The party rolls into town tonight, and most of the featured distilleries are New Yorkers.

To complement the Prohibition theme, The Blue Vipers of Brooklyn will set the tone with 1920s-1930s live jazz and swing. If you are more into the 21st century, a DJ will spin, and there will be a photo booth.

And you can't do all that drinking on an empty stomach: Hors d'oeuvres will circle the venue.

Tickets will be sold at the door.

If you go

Village Voice Holiday Spirits

Tonight
6:30 (VIP); 7:30 (general admission)
Studio Square, 35-44 37th St., Long Island City, $50 (GA), $70 (VIP)
www.villagevoice.com/holidayspirits

MAJA LUNDAGER
letters@metro.us

Restaurant openings

La Brochette

340 Lexington Ave., 212-972-2200
An upscale kosher steak house and sushi bar comes to Midtown.

The Heath

542 W. 27th St., 212-564-1662
This new restaurant inside the McKittrick Hotel, where "Sleep No More" runs, has an American-British menu inspired by the show.

NYY Steak

7 W. 51st St., 646-977-8235
This three-story steak house is a collaborative effort between the Yankees and the Hard Rock.

Artico / COURTESY HOTEL AMERICANO

Pop @ Pod

230 E. 51st St., 646-277-2900
Pop by the new hotel joint, brought to you by the folks behind Pop Burger, for fancy pub fare, craft beer and a round of foosball.

Artico

518 W. 27th St., 212-525-0000
Hotel Americano's winter rooftop escape changes its setup every year — this year, it's Nordic-inspired. A DJ will spin each night.

The Burger Bistro

37-03 31st Ave., Astoria, 347-808-8454
Like at its three other locations, you can customize your burger with unique toppings like pickled jalapenos and wasabi mayo. **MEREDITH ENGEL**

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HOLIDAY

Q104.3 Crash Q's Christmas Party

Friday, 6 p.m.
GTR Store,
41 W. 28th St.
Guest list only,
646-460-8472
www.gtrstore.com
Want to join the Q104.3 jocks at New York City's GTR Store to celebrate the holidays with a special performance by Southside Johnny and the Poor Fools? You know you do. The party starts at 6 p.m. on Friday and there's an open bar! But there's also a strict guest list. So go to www.q1043.com to sign up today before midnight.

JDub Reunion Chanukah Bash

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Brookfield Pl., Winter Garden
220 Vesey St.
Free, 212-945-0505
www.brookfieldplaceny.com
Back in 2011 JDub, the Jewish record label and event production company, called it quits. But after a few years of cold, JDub-less nights, they agreed to reunite and bring together some of their signature acts for this year's Festival of Lights. The Sway Machinery, DeLeon and Socalled will get the dance party bumping.

Rosemary's Second Annual Rooftop Tree Lighting & Caroling Party

Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Rosemary's,
18 Greenwich Ave.
Free, 212-647-1818
www.rosemarysnyc.com
Santa's going to be a little confused this year when he gets to Rosemary's and finds the Christmas tree on the roof, but hey, at least he won't have to risk getting stuck in the chimney like he sometimes does. Join Rosemary's for its rooftop tree lighting and caroling party. Sing your heart out while chomping on complimentary homemade cookies, zabaglione and house-pressed apple cider.

Judith Owen and Harry Shearer's Holiday Sing-Along

Saturday, 9 p.m.
BAM, Peter Jay Sharp Building,
30 Lafayette Ave, Fort Greene
Free, 718-636-4100
www.bam.org
Spend your Saturday with principal Skinner, Ned Flanders and Mr. Burns — well, not exactly. But Harry Shearer, the man who voices all of those "Simpsons" characters, and his wife Judith Owen will be hanging out for their annual holiday sing-along with special guests Teddy Thompson, Alice Ripley and more. Christmas songs range from "Winter Wonderland" to "F— Christmas," so even a Scrooge can enjoy.

LIC Flea and Food Holiday Market

Saturday-Dec. 8, Dec 14-15, 21-22
5-25 46th Ave.,
Long Island City
Free, 718-866-8089
www.licflea.com
When December rolls around, the idea of traveling to the flea market is easily trumped by staying inside and cyber shopping. But not anymore! For three consecutive weekends the LIC Flea and Food Holiday Market moves indoors so you can peruse your favorite vendors' tables from the usual outdoor market.

HOLIDAY

POST YOUR LISTING!

WWW.METRO.US/NEWYORK/EVENTS

C'mon, you'd be freaking out too. / RAY STUBBLEBINE

Scotch Brand Most Gifted Wrapper Contest

Friday, 8:30 a.m.
Celsius at Bryant Park, 40 W. 42nd St.; Free, 212-679-6600
Things are bound to get sticky at the only wrap battle Eminem surely cannot win. Wrappers test their skills, armed with bows and endless rolls of Scotch tape, to see who can wrap a toy castle, a children's go-kart and a 6-foot paddleboat with a canopy, and not have it look awful. The winner receives a $10,000 cash prize.

LECTURE

TEDxBrooklyn

Friday, 8 a.m.
Brooklyn Bowl, 61 Wythe Ave., Williamsburg;
$75-$100, 718-963-3369; www.brooklynbowl.com
The fourth annual TEDx conference celebrates the power of "We." Some of Brooklyn's greatest minds come together to talk about togetherness. Whether it's with people who think like you or who seem to be from another planet entirely, director Spike Lee, Vice co-founder Gavin McInnes, author Simon Van Booy and more agree we all work better together and are here to explain why.

Lee most likely planned his talk so it didn't conflict with a Knicks game. / GETTY IMAGES

LECTURE

Mario Batali's Crocs often match his hair.
GETTY IMAGES

Selected Shorts: Out of the Kitchen with Lucky Peach

Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway; $28 (30 and under with ID: $15), 212-864-5400; www.symphonyspace.org
Chef David Chang and writer Peter Meehan present shorts from their quarterly journal of food and writing, Lucky Peach. David Cross ("Arrested Development"), Greta Gerwig ("Frances Ha"), Mario Batali (dude in the orange Crocs) and more will be reading, commenting and hanging out. So an actress, a never-nude and a chef walk into a bar ...

FOOD + DRINK

NYC Brewers Guild Annual Fundraiser and Food Drive

Thursday, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn Brewery,
79 N. 11th St., Williamsburg
$40, 718-486-7422
www.newyorkcitybrewersguild.com
Put your money where your mouth is — soaked in beer. Your ticket will get you unlimited tastes of many rare and exotic beers. Bring a non-perishable food item for a treat!

The Brooklyn Cookie Takedown

Saturday-Dec. 8, 2 p.m.
The Bell House,
149 Seventh St., Gowanus
$15, 718-643-6510
www.thebellhouseny.com
You know who's cool? The Cookie Monster. He loves cookies and eats as many as he wants — he's a monster. Your ticket allows you to be cool like him, tasting every single cookie submitted into this contest, where bakers compete to be cookie king.

JAY HONSTETTER

We want you

Upload your own events!

Have an upcoming event that you want to let Metro readers know about? Send an email to events@metro.us and we'll get it on our new listings website.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Look after family obligations that require thought and change. Educational pursuits or picking up new skills should be considered.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Present ideas and share your thoughts about future investments. Your sincerity and know-how will capture interest and help you close the year with a bang.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Demands will put you in an awkward position. Do whatever needs to be done and move along. Lowered vitality can be expected.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Say little and do more. Your actions will be your ticket to success. Follow through with your promises.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Delays will set in while dealing with colleagues or peers. Counter any negativity you face with a suggestion, a solution and a smile. Don't shun change; it's your best option.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Put partnerships and romance first. Check out what everyone else is doing and follow suit if it will help you.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Business partnerships can be prosperous. Don't be afraid to make changes. Pick up last-minute items.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Social activity should include co-workers. The information you gather will be advantageous. Shop for bargains. Romance is highlighted.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Encourage others to share your adventure. Planning something that will inspire and excite you will also earn you a reputation that is sure to please. Look, see and do.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Get busy. The more you do without the help of others, the greater the rewards. Love is on the rise, and you will impress someone.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Travel will be in your best interest. This is a wonderful time for you to learn about new cultures.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Take any opportunity you get to visit new places. Romance is in the stars, and travel will do wonders for your love life. A makeover will turn out well.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

			9	7		5		3
		7	1				8	
	3		8		5	1	7	9
					2			
		8		1		6		
			3					
3	4	6	5		8		1	
	9				1	4		
7		5		4	6			

4		2			7		8	
	1		4					2
			5		6	1		3
6		8				9		
3								8
		1				3		4
2		5	6		4			
1					5		2	
	3		2			4		5

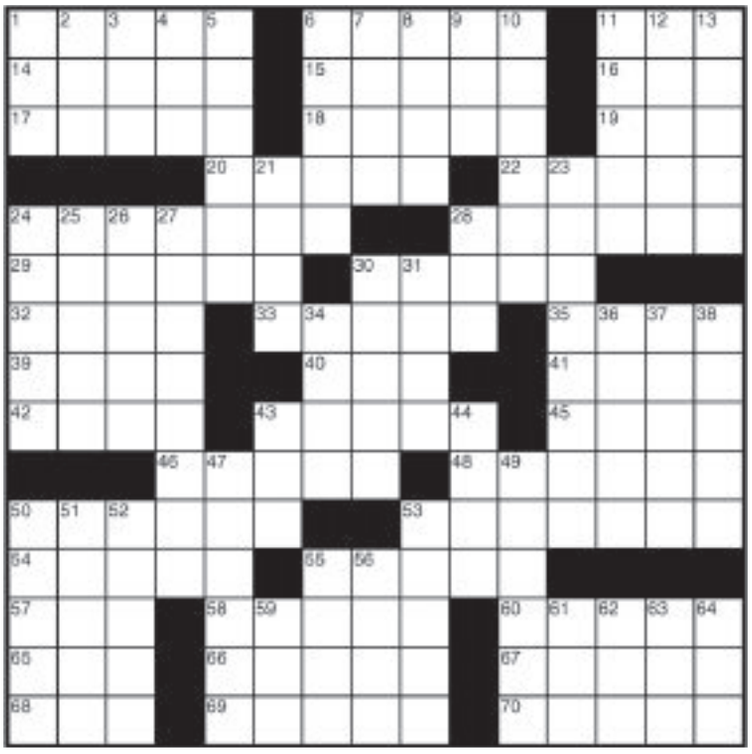
How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across
1 Tall
6 Cut timber
11 Schmooze
14 Hair-raising
15 Martini garnish
16 Buckeye st. campus
17 Coffee shop lure
18 Wined and dined
19 Bygone auto ornament
20 Get through to
22 "Das Boot" craft (hyph.)
24 Exposes as false
28 Squirrel's hoard
29 Slip by
30 Advise against
32 Circus routines
33 Public spat
35 Diplomat Abba —
39 Laugh-a-minute
40 Roswell crasher
41 Mist
42 Ferber or Millay
43 Notched, as a leaf
45 Bone, in combos
46 Avant- —
48 Contradicted
50 Moray catchers
53 Must-do feeling
54 Degrade
55 Type of pool
57 Peace offering
58 Genetic factor
60 Lack of interest
65 USN rank
66 Theater audience
67 Ice floe dwellers
68 Strong alkali
69 More competent
70 Cut flowers

Down
1 Grassy field
2 Above, poetically
3 To's opposite
4 Cratchit's son
5 Longs for
6 Couches
7 Mr. Baldwin
8 Escorted by
9 Day before
10 Gather
11 Like very much (2 wds.)
12 Sampan owner
13 Baseball ploys
21 Scrapes by
23 Core-sample source
24 "The Wreck of the Mary —"
25 Heston title role (2 wds.)
26 Twirler's gear
27 Steals the show
28 Had brunch
30 Crusoe's creator
31 "Dukes of Hazzard" deputy
34 Whey opposite
36 Yacht spot
37 Montezuma subject
38 Flat broke
43 Pause fillers
44 River in Spain
47 "Lady Soul"
49 Way out
50 Gauguin's prop
51 Piano-key wood
52 Expire
53 Downright
55 Claw badly
56 Seine tributary
59 Break in
61 After expenses
62 Kilt-wearer's refusal
63 Einstein's hometown
64 Soyuz destination

Yesterday's answer



Letters

Novella in Metro was 'temp'-ting

Re: 'Metro exclusive: "Temp"' (Metro, throughout November)
Douglas Coupland's Vancouver neighbor, author Sandra Yuen MacKay, ("Hell Fire") and I, a New York writer, thoroughly enjoyed the 20 "Temp" installments. A tidy plot, humor and deceptively clever dialogue made both our day(s) during November. Thanks to Douglas Coupland for writing it and to Metro for running it!
JAMES D. YOUNG, VIA EMAIL

Boy, can they box, but can they act?

"Grudge Match" is going to be a great movie, watching two great testosterone fueled actors like Robert DeNiro and Sylvester Stallone box each other. But wouldn't it have been nice if they portrayed two competing florists on the same West Village street? Now that would have been acting!
DAVID DIBELLO, VIA EMAIL

Online

Read letters at Metro.us

In addition to news, features, updates and more, Metro is posting letters to the editor at Metro.us.

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!

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LOSERS' BALL

The Nets and Knicks talked a lot of trash during the offseason, but heading into Thursday night's game (7 p.m., TNT) they would each just like to get a win and start moving in the right direction. / GETTY IMAGES

NBA. The Knicks and Nets are more worried about a win than feeding the rivalry.

If you were expecting any kind of outlandish statements about the Nets-Knicks rivalry prior to Thursday's game you will be sorely disappointed.

A combined 8-26 record has dampened what was a simmering offseason rivalry.

So gone are statements from Paul Pierce about how he intends to make this a Nets town and how his hatred for the Knicks goes back to 15 years in Boston. In their place are blanket statements about merely trying to win a game when the teams meet for the first time this season.

"No, I don't think there's any heat behind it," Nets head coach Jason Kidd said Wednesday. "I think it's just two teams trying to find a way to win."

Perhaps the strongest comments involved the stark reality of the situation. After Tuesday's 24-point loss, Kidd said "both teams stink" and after Wednesday's Knicks practice, Carmelo Anthony said his team is a "laughingstock."

"I think both teams feel that we should be better with our record, but unfortunately we're not, and both teams are looking for a win tomorrow, so that's as easy as it gets," Kidd said.

If only it were that easy for the Nets, who still remain optimistic about a turnaround, especially once Deron Williams (ankle), Pierce (hand), Jason Terry (knee) and Andrei Kirilenko (back) return.

"We're going to be a great team — not a good team — a great team," Terry said. "And we just got to get healthy, No. 1, but we just got to continue to fight."

It wasn't quite a guarantee because Terry pointed to the exact issues that cause things to swing downhill.

"Too many times, even when we did have our guys, when a team made a run on us or something, we've dropped our head and felt sorry for ourselves. Even at home, the fans start to boo, [and] we feel sorry for ourselves. No, it's just basketball. Go out here like the kid you were when you were 15. Have fun, enjoy it and enjoy whooping somebody's ass. That's what it's gonna take. On Thursday, what better game to do it in than that one."

When the schedule was released, members of both teams went back-and-forth talking about which team was going to take over New York but now the Knicks are just looking for a win with their coach firmly on the hot seat.

"Am I going to throw in the towel? Absolutely not," Knicks head coach Mike Woodson said. "I'm still the coach of this team. We got a big game [Thursday] night which I think we can win, so we just gotta stay focused and stay the course."

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

Quoted

"S—, I can't worry about Jason, I gotta worry about the New York Knicks."

Mike Woodson, Knicks head coach
On the turmoil across the East River, especially in the wake of assistant coach Lawrence Frank being "reassigned" by head coach Jason Kidd

Frank discussion

Kidd remains evasive about Frank move

Jason Kidd was vague on Tuesday when he announced assistant coach Lawrence Frank had been reassigned. In a matter-of-fact tone, he said Frank's new role was to compile daily reports.

Asked about the content of Frank's daily reports, Kidd responded by saying, "Whatever you want to write."

The cause of this breakup is a difference of philosophies and many players seemed to prefer just hearing from Kidd.

"To me, it's always been one voice," Jason Terry said. "This is Kidd's team. He's the coach. We love Coach Frank and what he brought to the table, but obviously J, they had their differences, so we're riding with coach Kidd."

LARRY FLEISHER

3 SPORTS

King crowned

Lundqvist locks up extension

Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist, due to be a free agent at season's end was locked up to a seven-year, $59.5 million extension on Wednesday. The 31-year-old goalie is a seven-time All Star and won the Vezina Trophy in 2011-12.

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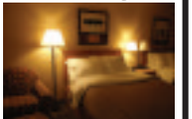

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NATALIE GUERCIO
Philadelphia, PA
New Blood

- For over 50 years, Natalie's family has owned and operated a funeral home rumored to be Philadelphia's go-to funeral home for the mob.

- Attracted to tough guys all her life, Natalie's currently trying to date someone a little less "connected" – for now, anyway…

- Natalie gives off a cool first impression – but she'll burn anyone who gets in her way.

ALICIA DIMICHELE
Philadelphia, PA
New Blood

- Alicia is the wife of alleged Colombo gangster Edward (The Tall Guy) Garofalo, whose father's murder was allegedly orchestrated by Sammy (The Bull) Gravano on orders from John Gotti.

- She's been dubbed "Wise Gal" and "Colombette" by the media because of her arrest on embezzlement charges, to which she plead guilty.

- Alicia's husband has a lot to make up for when he gets out of jail – and she plans to make him pay.

FLIP TO THE FRONT TO GET THE DIRT ON THE ORIGINALS.

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